

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The system selectively moves articles into and out of a number of loading areas.

The system has mutually transverse longitudinal and lateral axes defining longitudinal and

5 lateral directions, respectively, and comprises a carriage movable along variable longitudinal distances in the longitudinal direction, with the carriage having full longitudinal movement capability throughout the loading areas and being capable of depositing and retrieving an article at any point in the longitudinal direction. The carriage is movable also along a continuous range

10 of variable lateral distances in the lateral direction, with the variable lateral distances being determined by an article having any lateral position along the continuous range of lateral distances. The carriage can selectively engage and release the article at a predetermined lateral position.